

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus having a normal standby mode, and a reduced power consumption mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the normal standby mode, comprising:
 - a first control circuit that controls processing related to image formation;
 - a second control circuit operable when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode, for carrying out part of operations of said first control circuit carried out when the image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode; and
 - a detecting device that detects a status of the image forming apparatus;
- wherein:
 - said first control circuit responds to an externally input status request when the image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode, and enters an inoperative state where it does not respond to the externally input status request when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode; and
 - said second control circuit responds to the externally input status request on behalf of said first control circuit when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode.
2. An image forming apparatus as claimed in

claim 1, wherein when the image forming apparatus shifts from the normal standby mode to the reduced power consumption mode, said first control circuit transfers status information indicative of the status 5 of the image forming apparatus assumed upon the shift from the normal standby mode to the reduced power consumption mode.

3. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second control circuit consumes 10 less electric power than said first control circuit.

4. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, comprising a third control circuit that transmits status information indicative of the status of the image forming apparatus detected by said 15 detecting device to said first control circuit when the image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode, and a switching device that switches a transmission destination of the status information from said third control circuit to said second control circuit when the 20 image forming apparatus shifts from the normal standby mode to the reduced power consumption mode.

5. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second control circuit outputs to said first control circuit a start instruction signal 25 for causing said first control circuit to be started when the image forming apparatus receives an externally input start request or an externally input job in the

reduced power consumption mode.

6. An image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 5, wherein after outputting the start instruction
signal to said first control circuit, said second
control circuit transfers status information indicative
of the status of the image forming apparatus detected
by said detecting device and held by said second
control circuit to said first control circuit.

7. An image forming apparatus as claimed in
10 claim 1, wherein said second control circuit receives a
sleep signal indicative of whether the image forming
apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode or
not.

8. An image forming apparatus as claimed in
15 claim 1, comprising a plurality of power supplies
including a power supply to said second control circuit,
and wherein said second control circuit turns off the
power supplies other than the power supply to said
second control circuit when the image forming apparatus
20 shifts from the normal standby mode to the reduced
power consumption mode.

9. An image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 1, wherein said detecting device comprises a
first sensor group that detects a change in the status
25 of the image forming apparatus, and a second sensor
group that detects contents of the change detected by
said first sensor group, and wherein said second

control circuit maintains said first sensor group in an energized state and said second sensor group in a deenergized state when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode.

5 10. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode, said second control circuit brings said second sensor group into the energized state upon detection of a change in the
10 status of the image forming apparatus by said first sensor group.

11. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said second control circuit causes said second sensor group to be intermittently energized.

15 12. A control method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a normal standby mode, and a reduced power consumption mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the normal standby mode, the image forming apparatus comprising a first control circuit that controls processing related to image formation, a second control circuit operable when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode, for carrying out part of operations of said first control circuit carried out when the
20 25 image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode, and a detecting device that detects a status of the image forming apparatus, the control method comprising

the steps of:

- causing the first control circuit to respond to an externally input status request when the image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode; and
- 5 causing the first control circuit to enter an inoperative state where it does not respond to the externally input status request and causing the second control circuit to respond to the externally input status request on behalf of said first control circuit,
- 10 when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode.